

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the present application is respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 9, 11, 17, 19, 25, 26, 32, and 38 have been amended. Claims 3, 11, 19, and 26 have been amended to correct redundancy. Currently, claims 1-43 are pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Herman

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, Examiner rejects claims 1, 6-9, 14-17, 22-25, 27-33, 38, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,075,905 (hereinafter, Herman).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 32, and 38 as amended are not anticipated by Herman because Herman does not teach purging the memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level. On page 5 of the Office Action, Examiner says that Herman does not teach this limitation. However, Examiner alleges that it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to modify U.S. patent 5,706,416 (hereinafter, Mann) in this way. Applicant respectfully asserts that this conclusion of obviousness is incorrect because Mann teaches away from purging the memory of images in lower resolutions in Col. 14 line 63 through Col. 15 line 6 by teaching that such images may be used to create enhanced images. Examiner also states on page 5 of Office Action that it would be obvious to purge the memory to keep the old images from being mixed with the new ones. This reasoning is incorrect because it is common for an application or method that stores data in memory to keep both old and new data in memory, with identifiers to distinguish

the old from the new data.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 32, and 38 as amended are not anticipated by Herman, nor are they obvious over Herman in view of Mann. Therefore, Applicant submits that the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn. Further, noting that claims 6-8 and 28 depend from claim 1, claims 14-16 and 29 depend from claim 9, claims 22-24 and 30 depend from claim 17, claims 26, 27, and 31 depend from claim 25, and claim 39 depends from claim 38, Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejections of those claims have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herman in view of Mann

On pages 4-6 of the Office Action, Examiner rejects claims 2-5, 10-13, 18-21, 26, 34-37, and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,075,905 (hereinafter, Herman) in view of U.S. Patent 5,706,416 (hereinafter, Mann).

Noting that claims 2-5 depend from independent claim 1, claims 10-13 depend from independent claim 9, claims 18-21 depend from independent claim 17, claim 26 depends from independent claim 25, claims 34-37 depend from independent claim 32, and claims 40-43 depend from independent claim 38, Applicant incorporates by reference the above arguments asserting that Herman does not teach or suggest every element of the independent claims and also asserts that Mann does not supply those missing elements. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Herman in view of Mann does not teach or suggest every element of claims 2-5, 10-13, 18-21, 26, 34-37, and 40-43, and therefore, the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections of those claims have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Amended Once) A method comprising:
identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;
purging memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;
dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second
resolution level higher than the first resolution level; and
identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap.
3. (Amended Once) The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises:
storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify
where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;
[purging the memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;] and
storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify
where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.
9. (Amended Once) A computer readable medium having instructions that, when executed
by a computer, perform a method comprising:
identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;
purging memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;
dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second

resolution level higher than the first resolution level; and

identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap.

11. (Amended Once) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method comprises:

storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

[purging the memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;] and

storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.

17. (Amended Once) A computer system comprising:

(a) one or more processors; and

(b) a computer readable medium to store instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform:

(i) identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level,

(ii) purging memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;

[(ii)] (iii) dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level, and

[(iii)] (iv) identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second

resolution level overlap.

19. (Amended Once) The computer system of claim 17, comprising memory, the computer readable medium to store instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform:

storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in the memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level, [purging the memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level,] and storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.

25. (Amended Once) A computer system comprising:

means for identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;
means for purging memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;
means for dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level; and
means for identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap.

26. (Amended Once) The computer system of claim 25, comprising:

means for storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

[means for purging the memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;] and

means for storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.

32. (Amended Once) A method comprising:

identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;

purging memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;

dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level;

identifying overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level based on where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

identifying where the overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap;

purging memory of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level;

dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a third resolution level higher than the second resolution level;

identifying overlapping ones of the areas at the third resolution level based on where the overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap;

identifying where the overlapping ones of the areas at the third resolution level overlap;

and

combining the at least two digital images.

38. (Amended Once) A computer readable medium having instructions that, when executed by a computer, perform a method comprising:

identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;

purging memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;

dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level;

identifying overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level based on where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

identifying where the overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap;

purging memory of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level;

dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a third resolution level higher than the second resolution level;

identifying overlapping ones of the areas at the third resolution level based on where the overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap;

identifying where the overlapping ones of the areas at the third resolution level overlap;

and

combining the at least two digital images.

CONCLUSION

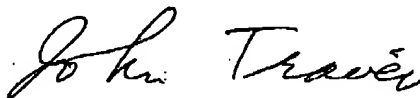
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted the present application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to help expedite any further prosecution of the present application.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any fees or fee deficiencies under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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